

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A signal convertor for modulating or demodulating an input signal $x(t)$, comprising:
a synthesizer for generating wideband mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , which vary irregularly over time, where $\phi_1 * \phi_2$ has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated;
a first mixer coupled to said synthesizer for mixing said input signal $x(t)$ with said mixing signal ϕ_1 to generate an output signal $x(t) \phi_1$; and
a second mixer coupled to said synthesizer and to the output of said first mixer for mixing said signal $x(t) \phi_1$ with said mixing signal ϕ_2 to generate an output signal $x(t) \phi_1 \phi_2$.
2. The signal convertor of claim 1, where said synthesizer comprises:
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , where ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 have different patterns.
3. The signal convertor of claim 2 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , where neither ϕ_1 nor ϕ_2 have significant power at the frequency of said local oscillator signal being emulated.
4. The signal convertor of claim 3 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , where $\phi_1 * \phi_1 * \phi_2$ does not have a significant amount of power within the bandwidth of said input signal $x(t)$ at baseband, thereby reducing adverse effects of local oscillator leakage.
5. The signal convertor of claim 4 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , where $\phi_2 * \phi_2$ does not have a significant amount of power within the bandwidth of said input signal $x(t)$ at baseband, thereby reducing adverse effects of local oscillator leakage.
6. The signal convertor of claim 1 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a synthesizer for randomly generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 .
7. The signal convertor of claim 1 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:

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a synthesizer for pseudo-randomly generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 .

8. The signal convertor of claim 7 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a synthesizer which can shape the spectrum of said mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 .

9. The signal convertor of claim 8 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a delta-sigma block for generating said mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 .

10. The signal convertor of claim 9 wherein the control signal and oversampling
rate of the delta-sigma block vary with time.

11. The signal convertor of claim 7 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , where said mixing signals ϕ_1
and ϕ_2 can change with time in order to reduce errors.

12. The signal convertor of claim 7, further comprising:
a filter for removing unwanted signal components from said $x(t)$ ϕ_1 signal.

13. The signal convertor of claim 7, wherein said mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are
digital waveforms.

14. The signal convertor of claim 7, wherein said mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are
square waveforms.

15. The signal convertor of claim 7, further comprising:
a local oscillator coupled to said synthesizer for providing a signal having a
frequency that is an integral multiple of the desired mixing frequency.

16. The signal convertor of claim 7, wherein said synthesizer uses a single time
base to generate both mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 .

17. The signal convertor of claim 7 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , wherein ϕ_1 is at a much higher
frequency than ϕ_2 , thereby reducing the amount of $1/f$ noise in the output, at
base band.

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18. The signal convertor as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second time-varying signals are periodic functions of time.
19. The signal convertor as claimed in claim 7, wherein said synthesizer comprises:
a synthesizer for generating time-varying signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , where both ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are operating at a much higher frequency than said local oscillator signal being emulated.
20. A signal convertor comprising two signal paths as claimed in claim 7, wherein said two sets of mixing signals are 90 degrees out of phase (ϕ_{10} and ϕ_{20} or ϕ_{11} and ϕ_{21}), thereby generating in-phase and quadrature components of said input signal $x(t)$.
21. The synthesizer of claim 7 comprising:
one or more additional signal generators for producing one or more additional time-varying signals;
where the product of all of said time-varying signals has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated, and none of said all of said time-varying signals has significant power at the frequency of said local oscillator signal being emulated.
22. A method of converting the frequency of a signal $x(t)$, comprising the steps of:
generating wideband mixing signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , which vary irregularly over time, where $\phi_1 * \phi_2$ has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated;
mixing said input signal $x(t)$ with said mixing signal ϕ_1 to generate an output signal $x(t) \phi_1$; and
mixing said signal $x(t) \phi_1$ with said mixing signal ϕ_2 to generate an output signal $x(t) \phi_1 \phi_2$.

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23. A synthesizer for generating signals to be input to successive mixers for modulating or demodulating an input signal $x(t)$, said synthesizer comprising:
a first signal generator for producing a first wideband mixing signal ϕ_1 which varies irregularly over time; and
a second signal generator for producing a second wideband signal ϕ_2 which varies irregularly over time;
where $\phi_1 * \phi_2$ has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated.

24. An integrated circuit comprising the device of claim 1.

25. A computer readable memory medium, storing computer software code in a hardware development language for fabrication of an integrated circuit comprising the device of claim 1.

26. A computer data signal embodied in a output wave, said computer data signal comprising computer software code in a hardware development language for fabrication of an integrated circuit comprising the device of claim 1.

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